NBC

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PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #478

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PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

C-PRO. 95

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

MUSIC: THEME

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Now let's see what's happening on the Pine Cone National National Forest. It's a test-blackout night for the town of Winding Creek and we find Ranger Jim Robbins and his assistant, Jerry quick high up in the cabin of the Windy Mountain Fire Lookout Tower overlooking the community. Jim and Jerry are helping the local air-raid warden organization, you see, and it's their particular assignment to check the effectiveness of the town's test blackout. Here they are....

JERRY: It's almost 9 o'clock, Jim. The lights ought to be blacking out directly.

JIM: There's still a few minutes to go, Jerry.....

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JIM: There's still a few minutes to go, Jerry....

JERRY: Gosh, that's a pretty sight down there with all those lights blinking, huh Jim? Winding Creek's gettin' to be quite a fair-sized town. I had no idea it's apread out like it is.

JIM: Yeah. I was just thinkin'. Winding Creek wasn't much more than a wide place in the road when the Pine Cone National Forest was first set up.

JERRY: You'd never know that to look at it now.

JIM: Yep. Our national forest here has done a lot to help build up Winding Creek. And it's a town that ain't goin' to bust up over night either, like so many places do after the timber's gone. Ther's goin' to be a Winding Creek as long as there's a Pine cone National Forest, you can depend on that.

JERRY: Yeah. I get what you mean, Jim. Permanent forests build permanent communities. An unsending supply of raw materials guarantees continual, uninterrupted industry - jobs, food, worthwhile living.

JIM: That's it, Jerry. And I think folks are finally coming around to appreciating the value of what we've got here in America; and the need to take care of our resources. This war we're in brings that out better'n any amount of talkin' can do, or has done, at least, in the past.

JERRY: Yeah. Look how we've run short of rubber and a lot of metals and stuff.

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JERRY: Yeah. Look how we've run short of rubber and a lot of metals and stuff.

JIM: But there ain't a bit of sense in our ever running short of wood, and we won't, Jerry, if we just take care of our forests and keep 'em growing. Folks are realizin' that, more and more...

JERRY: It's 9 o'clock on the nose, Jim. Look. The lights are beginning to fade our down there in town.

JIM: Yeah, I see. And that's something else, Jerry. This war sure has brought folks together. This test blackout we're lookin' at right now, for instance. There's an example of folks cooperating and working together for the common public good....

JERRY: Look, Jim. There's not a trace of a light in the whole north end of town. You'd never know there were any stores or houses there at all.

JIM: Yeah, but look at the lower end of town, Jerry. Doewn't look like there was a blackout on -- down there.

JERRY: Boy, somebody's sure slipped up. Say! That looks like a fire, Jim.

JIM: That's what it is, Jerry.

JERRY: Well, good gravy, let's do something about it. We better call town right away.

JIM: Nope. That fire can't hurt anything, excpet kinda mess up our blackout.

JERRY: Huh? What do you mean, Jim?

JIM: That's Al Perkins' mill there, in the south end of town, Jerry. That's his sawdust and slab fire we're lookin' at. It's going all the time, buring mill waste.

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JIM: That's Al Perkins' mill there, in the south end of town, Jerry. That's his sawdust and slab fire we're lookin' at. It's going all the time, burning mill waste.

JERRY: Holy smoke, I should have known that. Gosh, that mill fire'd be quite a problem on a real blackout, Jim.

JIM: Well, that's what these test blackouts are for, Jerry. To make sure no mistakes are made if and when the real thing comes along.

JERRY: But, doggone, Jim, it's goin' to be tough to put out Al's sawdust fire on a few minutes notice. You know how hard it is to put out a fire like that any time. (HAND CRANK TELEPHONE) Who you calling, Jim?

JIM: I gotta report to Andy Goodman, Jerry. (RECEIVER UP)..... Hello, Elmira?....Get me Andy Goodman, will yuh?...What's that?...No. Jerry and I are plenty warm up here. Yeah. You can stop feelin' sorry for us. Just get Andy for me, please.....

JERRY: Elmira's been worryin' about us, huh?

JIM: Yeah....Hello, Andy? This is Jim Robbins reportin' from Windy Mountain fire lookout...Yeah, the folks've done a swell job blacking out. Looks great from here. All lights are out except Al Perkins' sawdust fire.....Yeah, at the mill...No, I don't think there's anything you can do tonight. But I got a plan, Andy. Tell you about it in the morning...Yeah. Al will cooperate. I know...O.K...Yep, we'll be leaving here soon. Yeah...Oh, forget it. You don't have to thank Jerry and me. We're all in this fight together...Goodnight.....

(RECEIVER DOWN).

JERRY: What's this plan you got in mind, Jim? About the fire in that sawdust pile?

JIM: Well, I recollect when Al and me were making a survey for scrap metal around his mill last week we came on some good water pipe. Too good, really for junking. Al's still got that pipe, enough of it to rig up around his sawdust pile like some mill owners I read about did in some other places.

JERRY: A sprinkler system, huh?

JIM: Yeah and supposed to work fine. When the alarm comes, they just turn the water on and the flames die down and the smoke comes up. Blacks it out fine. And it never puts on the fire clear out, either.

JERRY: But what about the wood scraps and edgings and the like that Al's men toss on the fire? The water will put that stuff completely out won't it?

JIM: I've been thinkin' about that too. Seems to me, Al's got a good chance to do some neighbors a good turn by lettin' them come and get that stuff for fire wood in their homes. We can't afford to waste a single stick of wood these days. Al will see it that way, too.

JERRY: I guess you've just about thought of everything, Jim. Seems like you always have an answer handy.

JIM: You're wrong, Jerry. Look out there to the west. See? Out there in the forest?

JERRY: By George. There's a light out there, just from Windy Ridge. Who do you suppose?...

JIM: I don't know the answer to that one yet, Jerry. There's an old trapper's cabin somewhere right about where that light is, that hasn't been lived in for several years, and nobody's been given permission to be there, to my knowledge. C'mon, I s'pect we better do a little (FADE) investigating.

SOUND OF TRAMPING THROUGH BRUSH

JERRY: Well, here's the cabin, jim. It's that light there shining through the window that we saw from the tower.

(SOTTO VOICES THROUGH FOLLOWING)

JIM: Go easy, Jerry. We better stay quiet 'till we find out who it is.

JERRY: Yeah. We haven't got any gun. Say, you reckon there might be some foreign agents or something in there?

JIM: Folks up to some mischief would be more careful with their lights, I'd think.... Let's ease over to that side window there, and have a look in...Take it easy.

JERRY: Lead on, MacDuff.

JIM: Well, here we are...H-m-m....

JERRY: Why, it's just a young kid, Jim. Looks like he's all alone.

JIM: Yeah, the young lad's not much over fifteen, sixteen, I'd judge.

JERRY: Look. He's just sitting there, looking off into space.

JIM: Might as well go in and find out...

JERRY: Wait. There's a rifle there, propped up against that far corner. See?

JIM: Don't give him a chance to get at it, Jerry. It's closer to the door than it is to him. Come on.

JERRY: O K. I'll dive for the gun soon's you open the door.

JIM: (SOTTO) Ready?

JERRY: (SOTTO) All set.

JIM: (SOTTO) Let's go then. (DOOR PUSHED OPEN) (RAISING VOICE) All right son. Better stay there where you are.

JERRY: (OFF) I've got the rifle, Jim. It's just a little old 22 caliber.

DON: Wha...What do you want?

JERRY: (COMING ON) We'll ask the questions, feller. What are you doing here?

JIM: Wait a minute, Jerry. Son, I'm Ranger Jim Robbins and this is Jerry Quick here. We saw your light and ....

DON: I haven't done anything wrong, Mister...honest. You're...you're not going to arrest me, are you?

JIM: What's your name, son? Where do you live?

DON: My name's Don...Don Waters... But I'm not going to tell you where I live. I don't see that it's any of your business. I didn't do anything.

JERRY: That's what you think, Bud...Jim, there's something mighty funny about all this.

JIM: Don, your being here is very much our business. You probably don't realize it but you're occupyin' a building on government land without permission and you've come on an area that's restricted to firearms. That's trespassin' you know. Against Uncle Sam.

DON: I didn't know that. Honest. I didn't think anybody'd mind me coming up here to this old shack here for a little while. I wasn't going to shoot anything. Honest I wasn't.

JERRY: Then what are you doing here anyway?

JIM: Look, Don. It isn't everyday that a young fellow like yourself is found alone in a forest cabin miles from anywhere. It'd be easier for all of us if you told us the truth. How long you been here? Why did you come here?

DON: I've only been here since this afternoon, Ranger. You see, I... I knew about this place being empty, so I came up here just to.... just to be alone where I could kinda think about things... all by myself. I had to come up here....that's all.

JERRY: Of all the cock-and-bull stories I've ever heard...

JIM: Wait, Jerry...Don, you got any folks?

DON: Yes sir. Mother's home, in Elk City. And Dad, he...well, Dad.. He's...

JERRY: I get it. You had a wuarrel with your Dad and ran away from home. Is that it?

DON: No sir! And don't you talk about my Dad that way.

JIM: What is it, Don? What about your Dad?

DON: (BROKENLY) Dad...Dad was killed in action last week. He was an officer in the navy.

JERRY: Oh, I'm sorry, Kid.

DON: (TEARFULLY) That's all right. You didn't know. And we...Mother and I... we didn't know until this morning, either.

JIM: And your Mother, Don? Does she know where you are?

DON: M-no... I just told her I wanted to get away by myself for awhile and...and kinda think about things..(TEARFULLY) I just <u>had</u> to come up here... don't you see?

JIM: Didn't you kinda run out on your Mother, Don, just when she needed you most?

DON: Huh?...Gee, I...maybe I...

JIM: Seems to me it's up to you to take your Dad's place now, Don, isn't it? Be the man of the family?

DON: I...I guess maybe it is... I hadn't thought about that exactly. I was just thinking about how Dad and I used to pal around, and how when I got old enough he hoped I'd carry on in the Navy. That's what I was thinking about mostly.

JIM: That won't be for a couple years yet. will it, Don? 'Till you can get in the Navy?

DON: No..and I see what you mean, Ranger. In the meantime, I ought not to leave Mother by herself?

JIM: Well, it sorta struck me, Don, that when your Dad went off on duty he knew you were around to keep your Mother company, and look after her. He kinda left you in charge. See?

DON: Y...e...s... It's kinda like that now. Dad's gone off now, too. And he wouldn't have wanted me to leave Mother alone now, would he? He'd want me to stay by the ship. Yes, I know he would... May I have my gun now, please...and knapsack?

JIM: Give him his rifle, Jerry.

JERRY: Sure. Here it is. Don... What you going to do now?

DON: I'm goin' home. I've kinda thought things out...not all by myself maybe, but everything's clear in my mind now... uh... thanks, Ranger....

JIM: You going all the way back home tonight, Don?

DON: Yes, sir!... Mother's waiting for me. She needs me...Goodbye.

JIM: Good luck, boy!

DOOR CLOSES

JERRY: Well!

JIM: Walked out of one blackout right into another one, didn't we, Jerry?

JERRY: Huh? What do you mean, Jim?

JIM: Well, with Winding Creek it was backing out lights, not a very hard thing for folks to have to do.

JERRY: And Don Waters?

JIM: The blacking out Don had to do came a mite harder, I reckon. He had to black our uncertainty and, well, a sort of selfishness he wasn't exactly conscious of.

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JERRY: Yeah, that's right.

JIM: You see, Jerry, Americans, these days, need to dispel all doubts and uncertainty - and when you're fighting for your very life like we are today, there's no room for selfishness either, none at all.

MUSICAL FINALE

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday during the Farm and Home Hour with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

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